Received By: csundber

### 2009 DRAFTING REQUEST

### Bill

Received: 12/07/2009

For: Ann Hraychuck (608) 267-2365  By/Representing: Maggie Gau  This file may be shown to any legislator: NO  Drafter: csundber  May Contact:  Addl. Drafters:  Subject: Bus. Assn unincorp. assns  Extra Copies:  Submit via email: YES  Requester's email:  Rep.Hraychuck@legis.wisconsin.gov  Carbon copy (CC:) to: christopher.sundberg@legis.wisconsin.gov  Pre Topic:  No specific pre topic given  Topic:  Authorize cooperative to hold electronic elections  Instructions:  See attached  Drafting History:  Vers. Drafted Reviewed Typed Proofed Submitted Jacketed Require	Wanted:	As time perm	its	Identical to LRB:					
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**LRB-3959** 02/04/2010 03:30:11 PM Page 2

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<END>

Not Needed

Received By: csundber

### 2009 DRAFTING REQUEST

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**LRB-3959** 01/12/2010 10:05:42 AM Page 2

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FE Sent For:

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### 2009 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

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See attached						
Drafting History:						
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From:

Gau, Maggie

Sent:

Monday, December 07, 2009 11:00 AM

To: Subject:

Sundberg, Christopher RE: Cooperative elections

Attachments:

Minnesota Law.pdf

#### Christopher,

Attached is a copy of Minnesota's language. We would like Cooperatives to have the option to utilize electronic voting if they would like to do so, something that would have to be approved by their individual boards and added to their bylaws. We are working with the WECA on this bill. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks!

Maggie



Minnesota Law.pdf (189 KB)

Maggie Gau Office of Rep. Ann Hraychuck 608.267.2365 or 1.888.529.0028 Room 6 North State Capitol

From: Sundberg, Christopher

Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 10:43 AM

To: Gau, Maggie

Subject: Cooperative elections

I'll be the drafter for this request. Robin Ryan said you had some language from Minnesota in mind. Can you forward it to me?

Christopher Sundberg Legislative Attorney Legislative Reference Bureau (608) 266-9739 christopher.sundberg@legis.state.wi.us Key: (1) language to be deleted (2) new language

#### 2002, Regular Session

#### CHAPTER 303-S.F.No. 2814

An act relating to cooperatives; authorizing electronic voting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, sections 308A.311, subdivisions 4, 5; 308A.635, subdivisions 4, 6.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA: Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 308A.311, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

- Subd. 4. [VOTE BY MAIL <u>OR ELECTRONIC MEANS</u>.] (a) A member may not vote by mail <u>or electronic means</u> for a director unless mail <u>or electronic</u> voting is authorized for election of directors by the articles or bylaws.
  - (b) The ballot shall be in a form prescribed by the board.
- (c) If the vote is by mail, the member shall mark the ballot for the candidate chosen and mail the ballot to the cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name.
- (d) The member may vote by electronic means if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is the cooperative member who is casting the vote.
- (e) If the ballot of the member is received by the cooperative on or before the date of the regular members' meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.
- Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 308A.311, subdivision 5, is amended to read:
- Subd. 5. [VOTE BY MAIL <u>OR ELECTRONIC MEANS</u> FOR TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE.] If voting by mail <u>or by electronic means</u> is authorized by the articles or the bylaws of a telephone cooperative, a member may vote by mail <u>or by electronic means</u> for the director in the manner prescribed in the articles or bylaws. The mail voting shall be by secret ballot.
- Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 308A.635, subdivision 4, is amended to read:
- Subd. 4. [VOTING METHOD.] A member's vote at a members' meeting must be in person or by mail if a mail vote is authorized by the board, or by electronic means if an electronic vote is authorized by the board, and not by proxy except as provided in subdivisions 2 and 5.
- Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 308A.635, subdivision 6, is amended to read:
- Subd. 6. [ABSENTEE BALLOTS.] (a) A member who is absent from a members' meeting may vote by mail or by electronic means on the ballot prescribed in this subdivision on any motion, resolution, or amendment that the board submits for vote by mail to the members.
- (b) The ballot shall be in the form prescribed by the board and contain:
- (1) the exact text of the proposed motion, resolution, or amendment to be acted on at the meeting; and
- (2) spaces opposite the text of the motion, resolution, or amendment in which the member may indicate an affirmative or negative vote.
- (c) If the vote is by mail, the member shall express a choice by marking an "X" in the appropriate space on the ballot and mail or deliver the ballot to the cooperative in a plain, sealed envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's

name.

- (d) The member may vote by electronic means if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is the cooperative member who is casting the vote.
- (e) A properly executed ballot shall be accepted by the board and counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting.

Presented to the governor March 26, 2002 Signed by the governor March 27, 2002, 3:36 p.m.

#### 2008 Minnesota Statutes

#### 308A.311 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Subdivision 1. Generally. Directors shall be elected for the term, at the time, and in the manner provided in this section and the bylaws.

- Subd. 2. Election at regular meeting. Directors shall be elected at the regular members' meeting for the terms of office prescribed in the bylaws. Except for directors elected at district meetings, all directors shall be elected at the regular members' meeting.
- Subd. 3. District or local unit election of directors. (a) A cooperative with districts or other local units may elect directors on a district or local unit basis if provided in the bylaws.
- (b) The directors may be nominated or elected at district meetings if provided in the bylaws. Directors who are nominated at district meetings shall be elected at the annual regular members' meeting by vote of the members of the entire membership, unless the bylaws provide that directors who are nominated at district meetings are to be elected by vote of the members of the district at the annual regular members' meeting.
- Subd. 4. Vote by mail or electronic means. (a) A member may not vote by mail or electronic means for a director unless mail or electronic voting is authorized for election of directors by the articles or bylaws.
  - (b) The ballot shall be in a form prescribed by the board.
- (c) If the vote is by mail, the member shall mark the ballot for the candidate chosen and mail the ballot to the cooperative in a sealed plain envelope inside another envelope bearing the member's name.
- (d) The member may vote by electronic means if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is the cooperative member who is casting the vote.
- (e) If the ballot of the member is received by the cooperative on or before the date of the regular members' meeting, the ballot shall be accepted and counted as the vote of the absent member.
- Subd. 5. Vote by mail or electronic means for telephone cooperative. If voting by mail or by electronic means is authorized by the articles or the bylaws of a telephone cooperative, a member may vote by mail or by electronic means for the director in the manner prescribed in the articles or bylaws. The mail voting shall be by secret ballot.
- Subd. 6. Farm corporation stockholder may be director. If a member of a cooperative is a family farm corporation defined in section 500.24, subdivision 2, clause (c), or an authorized farm corporation defined in section 500.24, subdivision 2, clause (d), the member may elect or appoint an individual stockholder of the farm corporation residing on or actively operating the farm to be eligible for election as a director to the board.
- Subd. 7. Corporate members may nominate persons for director. If a member of a cooperative is not a natural person, family farm corporation, or an authorized farm corporation and the bylaws do not provide otherwise, the member may appoint or elect one or, for a cooperative constituted entirely of other cooperatives or associations, one or more natural persons to be eligible for election as a director to the board.

**History:** 1989 c 144 art 1 s 21; art 3 s 15; 2002 c 303 s 1,2

From:

Gau, Maggie

Sent:

Tuesday, December 08, 2009 1:24 PM

To: Subject:

Sundberg, Christopher RE: Cooperative elections

Is it possible for this first draft to be a P-draft?

Thanks Christopher.

Maggie

Maggie Gau Office of Rep. Ann Hraychuck 608.267.2365 or 1.888.529.0028 Room 6 North State Capitol

From: Sundberg, Christopher

Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 1:56 PM

To: Gau, Maggie

Subject: RE: Cooperative elections

This might be a little more complicated than I first thought. Under current s. 185.12, Wisconsin coops do not really even have a vote-by-mail option. Should the draft authorize voting by mail and voting electronically?

From:

Gau, Maggie

Sent: To: Monday, December 07, 2009 11:00 AM

Subject:

Sundberg, Christopher RE: Cooperative elections

Christopher,

Attached is a copy of Minnesota's language. We would like Cooperatives to have the option to utilize electronic voting if they would like to do so, something that would have to be approved by their individual boards and added to their bylaws. We are working with the WECA on this bill. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks!

Maggie

<< File: Minnesota Law.pdf >>

Maggie Gau

Office of Rep. Ann Hraychuck 608.267.2365 or 1.888.529.0028 Room 6 North State Capitol

From: Sundberg, Christopher

Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 10:43 AM

To: Gau, Maggie

**Subject:** Cooperative elections

I'll be the drafter for this request. Robin Ryan said you had some language from Minnesota in mind. Can you forward it to



### lu: 12/10 State of Misconsin 2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3959/9 RMNR CTS: L....

#### PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

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AN ACT/...; relating to: action by a cooperative without a meeting and methods

of voting by members of a cooperative.

#### Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law specifies the means for governance of a cooperative organized in this state. Generally, under current law, action that may be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting only if a writing setting forth and approving the action is signed by all of the cooperative members, directors, or executive committee members entitled to vote on the action. Currently, a member of a cooperative who is entitled to vote on a motion may vote only by attending the meeting at which a vote is held, unless one of the following applies: (1) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken, or (2) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with exact copies of the motion and any resolution to which the motion pertains.

This bill authorizes a cooperative to permit, in its bylaws, voting by mail or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means. Under the bill, action may also be taken without a meeting if the action has been approved by mail or electronic voting in a manner consistent with the bylaws.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**SECTION 1.** 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read: 1 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) Members Except as provided in par. (c), members entitled 2 to vote on a motion but absent from the meeting at which the vote is taken may vote 3 4 only as follows: Ø History: 1985 a. 30 ss. 13, 14, 42; 1993 a. 482. **Section 2.** 185.12 (5) (c) of the statutes is created to read: 5 185.12 (5) (c) The bylaws may provide for voting by mail or, if the cooperative 6 7 is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means. **Section 3.** 185.34 of the statutes is renumbered 185.34 (intro.) and amended 8 9 to read: 185.34 Action without meeting by directors or members. Any action 10 11 which may be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if a any of the following applies: (1) A writing setting forth and approving the action taken shall be has been 13 14 signed by all of the cooperative members, directors or executive committee members 15 entitled to vote on such action. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as 16 a unanimous vote at a meeting. History: 1985 a. 30 s. 42. 17 **SECTION 4.** 185.34 (2) of the statutes is created to read: 18 185.34 (2) If the bylaws authorize voting by mail or by electronic means, the 19 action has been approved by voting in a manner consistent with the bylaws and with 20 .85.12 (5) (c) 21 (END)

From:

Gau, Maggie

Sent:

Tuesday, December 22, 2009 2:27 PM

To:

Sundberg, Christopher

Subject:

FW: changes to draft

Importance: High

Hi Christopher,

Below are some corrections to the P-draft that we need changed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Maggie

Maggie Gau Office of Rep. Ann Hraychuck 608.267.2365 or 1.888.529.0028 Room 6 North State Capitol

**From:** Beata Kalies [mailto:Beata.Kalies@cooperativenetwork.coop]

Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 1:29 PM

To: Gau, Maggie

**Subject:** changes to draft

**Importance:** High

Maggie,

I finally have my answers regarding the preliminary bill draft dealing with electronic voting for cooperatives. There are changes that will have to be made to the draft as it goes beyond what our intent was.

When we talked about it over the phone, it made sense but seeing it on paper and being able to analyze it, made a huge difference. Thank you for your patience. Please make the following changes to the draft.

Here are the change to LRB-3959/P1:

- Keep Sections 1 and 2 on page 2, (lines 1-7). We do want to allow voting by mail and by electronic means with the by-laws dictating which.
- Strike out Sections 3 & 4 (lines 8-20) on page 2. This language would basically do away with member meetings which was not our intent.

Thank you. Let me know if you need more info or would like me to talk to the drafter.

### Beata



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73)

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|u: 12/28 State of Misconsin 2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3959/PI
CTS:cjs:jf

2009 BILL

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION



AN ACT to renumber and amend 185.34; to amend 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.); and

to create 185.12 (5) (c) and 185.34 (2) of the statutes; relating to: action by a

cooperative without a meeting and methods of voting by members of a cooperative.

#### Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law specifies the means for governance of a cooperative organized in this state. Generally, under current law, action that may be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting only if a writing setting forth and approving the action is signed by all of the cooperative members, directors, or executive committee members entitled to vote on the action. Currently, a member of a cooperative who is entitled to vote on a motion may vote only by attending the meeting at which a vote is held, unless one of the following applies: (1) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken, or (2) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with exact copies of the motion and any resolution to which the motion pertains.

This bill authorizes a cooperative to permit, in its bylaws, voting by mail or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means. Under the bill, action may be taken without a meeting if the action

has been approved by mail or electronic voting in a manner consistent with the bylaws.

## The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**SECTION 1.** 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) Members Except as provided in par. (c), members entitled to vote on a motion but absent from the meeting at which the vote is taken may vote only as follows:

**Section 2.** 185.12 (5) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

185.12 (5) (c) The bylaws may provide for voting by mail or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means.

**SECTION 3.** 185.34 of the statutes is renumbered 185.34 (intro.) and amended to read:

**185.34** Action without meeting by directors or members. (intro.) Any action which may be taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if —a any of the following applies:

(1) A writing setting forth and approving the action taken shall be has been signed by all of the cooperative members, directors or executive committee members entitled to vote on such action. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote at a meeting.

**SECTION 4.** 185.34 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

185.34 (2) If the bylaws authorize voting by mail or by electronic means, as permitted under s. 185.12 (5) (c), the action has been approved by voting in a manner consistent with the bylaws.

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From:

Gau, Maggie

Sent:

Tuesday, January 05, 2010 5:21 PM

To:

Sundberg, Christopher

Subject:

FW: electronic voting bill draft

Importance: High

Christopher,

Below are some changes that we need to LRB 3959/1.

Thank you for all your help and please contact me with any questions that you have.

Maggie

Maggie Gau Office of Rep. Ann Hraychuck 608.267.2365 or 1.888.529.0028 Room 6 North State Capitol

From: Berman, Niles [mailto:NBerman@wheelerlaw.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2010 4:38 PM

**To:** Beata Kalies **Cc:** Brian D Rude

Subject: RE: electronic voting bill draft

Beata – The language we discussed is set out below. It corrects the description in the "Analysis" section of current absentee balloting provisions. And it corrects the references in the Analysis and in the bill draft from "mail ballot" to "absentee ballot," since current law does not limit absentee ballots to mail ballots (i.e., the language of the statute is "submitting," which would permit hand delivery to the coop as well as mailing). By eliminating the "virtual meeting" provision this LRB draft is a huge improvement over the prior version, but it could benefit further from the suggestions below. Let me know if you or LRB have any questions. – Niles

Niles Berman Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C. 25 W. Main Street, Suite 801 Madison, WI 53703 608-255-7277

This email is sent by a lawfirm and may contain information that is privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete the e-mail and any attachments and notify us immediately. Internal Revenue Service Circular 230 Disclosure: As provided for in Treasury regulations, any advice relating to federal taxes that is contained in this communication (including attachments) is not intended to be used and may not be used for the purpose of (1) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (2) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any plan or arrangement addressed in this communication.

#### Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, a member of a cooperative who is entitled to vote on a motion may vote only by attending the meeting at which a vote is held, unless one of the following applies: (1) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken along with exact copies of the motion and any resolution to which the motion pertains, or (2) the cooperative makes ballots, along with copies of the motion and resolution, available to members, on request, for the vote on the motion.

This bill authorizes a cooperative to permit, in its bylaws, voting by absentee ballot as currently allowed or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

**SECTION 1.** 185.12 (5) (1) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) Members Except as provided in par. (c), members entitled to vote on a motion but absent from the meeting at which the vote is taken may vote only as follows:

**SECTION 2.** 185.12 (5) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

185.12 (5) (c) The bylaws may provide for voting by absentee ballot or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by electronic means.

From: Berman, Niles [NBerman@wheelerlaw.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 1:40 PM

To: Sundberg, Christopher

Cc: Gau, Maggie; Beata Kalies

Subject: RE: electronic voting bill draft

Chris,

I think that approach would be fine.

My assumption, by the way, was that the language in (a) 1 and 2 that "an *absent* member may *vote*" and then establishing some of the procedures for doing so was a sufficient referent for the term "absentee voting" that I had suggested in my draft. Regardless, the approach you presented would certainly achieve the objective here. Thanks.

Niles

Niles Berman Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C. 25 W. Main Street, Suite 801 Madison, WI 53703 608-255-7277

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From: Sundberg, Christopher [mailto:Christopher.Sundberg@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 1:12 PM

**To:** Berman, Niles **Cc:** Gau, Maggie

Subject: RE: electronic voting bill draft

How about this:

185.12 (5) (a) 3. By electronic means, if all of the following apply:

- a. The cooperative permits absent members to vote on the motion as described under subd. 1. or 2.
- b. The bylaws provide for electronic voting.
- c. The cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote.
- d. The cooperative gives a vote cast under this subdivision the same weight as a vote under subd. 1. or 2.

I'd suggest avoiding using a phrase like "absentee voting," because it's not a term used in ch. 185. I also think it might be to broad to require a coop to "treat" an electronic vote the same as a ballot cast under 185.12 (5) (a) 1. or 2., thus "gives a vote...the same weight."

CS

From: Berman, Niles [mailto:NBerman@wheelerlaw.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 3:15 PM



lu: 1/7/10 200h State of Wisconsin 2009 - 2010 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3959/4 RMNI CTS:cjs:md

### 2009 BILL

a together with exact copies of the motion and any resolution to which the motion pertains

AN ACT to amend 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.); and to create 185.12 (5) (c) of the

statutes; relating to: methods of voting by members of a cooperative.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law specifies the means for governance of a cooperative organized in this state. Currently, a member of a cooperative who is entitled to vote on a motion may vote only by attending the meeting at which a vote is held, unless one of the following applies: (1) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion, with the notice of the meeting at which the vote will be taken, or (2) the cooperative provides members with ballots for the vote on the motion with exact copies of the motion and any resolution to which the motion pertains

This bill authorizes a cooperative to permit, in its bylaws, voting by mail or, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, by

electronic means.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 185.12 (5) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

1\(\beta 5.12\) (a) (intro.) Members Except as provided in par. (c), members entitled

to vote on a motion but absent from the meeting at which the vote is taken may vote

only as follows: makes ballots and copies of the motion and resolution available to members apon request for the vote on the motion

1

2

LRB-3959/1

# 2009-2010 DRAFTING INSERT FROM THE

LRB-3959/2ins CTS:...:...

#### LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

1 **Insert A:** The authorizes a cooperative to permit electronic voting on a motion if the cooperative permits absent members to vote on the motion as permitted under current law, if the bylaws provide for electronic voting, if the cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a vote, and if the cooperative gives an electronic vote the same (weight) as a vote by an absent member under current law. Insert 2-1: 2 reffect 185.12 (5) (a) 3. By electronic means, if all of the following apply: 3 a. The cooperative permits absent members to vote on the motion as described 4 5 under subd. 1. or 2. b. The bylaws provide for electronic voting. 6 7 c. The cooperative is able to authenticate that it is a member who is casting a 8 vote. d. The cooperative gives a vote cast under this subdivision the same weight as (9) a vote cast under subd. 1. or 2. 10 awhichever

### **Duerst, Christina**

From:

Sent:

Gau, Maggie Thursday, February 04, 2010 3:22 PM

To:

LRB.Legal

Subject:

Draft Review: LRB 09-3959/2 Topic: Authorize cooperative to hold electronic elections

Please Jacket LRB 09-3959/2 for the ASSEMBLY.